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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/964,785      | 09/26/2001  | Gary K. Loda         | SUREB-58450         | 3304             |

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PETER K HAHN  
LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON, SCRIPPS, LLP.  
600 WEST BROADWAY  
SUITE 2600  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

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| EXAMINER |
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JASTRZAB, KRISANNE MARIE

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1744

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/964,785

Applicant(s)

LODA ET AL.

Examiner

Krisanne Jastrzab

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34,35,47 and 48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-35 and 47-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 34-35 and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kottler et al., U.S. patent No. 6,504,898 B1 in view of Bergeret et al., U.S. patent No. 4,852,138.

Kottler et al., clearly teach a method and apparatus for optimizing the irradiation of products wherein maximum and minimum dose rates are determined for the given geometry, such as thickness, of the product to be treated and the intensity of the radiation applied is modified such that the entire product receives the optimal amount of radiation consistently. The modification of the radiation is achieved by means adjustably modulating the shape of the radiation generated. See column 1, lines 20-25, column 3, lines 10-15, column 4, lines 1-15 and 40-50, column 7, lines 25-35, column 8, lines 14-47, column 9, lines 25-60, and column 12, lines 60-68.

Bergeret et al., teach a method and apparatus for optimizing the irradiation of products to control the max/min radiation dose received which includes the teaching that irradiation can be performed in any known manner, either a cylindrical source with the products being rotated such that all sides are irradiated, or a two source configuration where the products are passed there between such that opposite sides are controllably irradiated. Bergeret et al., further teach that a larger number of products can be processed with a two source panel system, then a cylindrical system because the total quantity of products that can be irradiated simultaneously is larger. See column 2, lines 56-68, column 3, lines 1-23 and lines 65-68, column 4, lines 1-16, column 5, lines 32-38 and claim 2.

It would have been well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute two sources for irradiation as taught in Bergeret et al., in the system of Kottler et al., because it would allow for the simultaneous treatment of a larger number of products while maintaining the dose control functions.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/1/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that while Kottler et al., clearly teach a lower limit, it fails to teach an upper limit of the cumulative radiation, however, the Examiner would disagree and point to column 7, lines 37-41, which clearly specify that a high DUR is over 2, thus the desired range being between 1 (uniform DUR) and 2 (high DUR wherein portions of the product being irradiated will receive overexposure).

Applicant again argues that Kottler fails to teach or suggest reducing the intensity of the radiation, however, the Examiner would disagree. Kottler teaches dynamic modulation of the intensity of the radiation applied to a product in order to maintain a desired, uniform dose rate for the entire product, that dose rate having pre-determined maximum and minimum parameters, as well as acceptable maximum and minimum ratios. The modulation taught in Kottler inherently requires reducing the intensity if dose rates are detected that exceed the desired dose rate. Figure 12 (d) specifically graphs the intensity control. See column 7, lines 20-45 for the description of the maximum,

minimum and desired uniform dose rates, and column 10, lines 41-44, column 11, line 13 through column 12, line 8, column 13, lines 35-40, column 15, lines 9-12 and column 16, lines 6-15, describing the modulation of the intensity or power of the radiation beam.

Applicant further argues that Kottler et al., do not teach reducing the intensity of the radiation before it applied to the article if it is above a second upper limit, however, the Examiner would disagree and point to column 3, lines 28-36, and to the clear disclosure of an unacceptable, high DUR as noted above. Kottler et al., clearly teach that the prior art was unable to achieve a "relatively flat dose distribution" resulting in high DUR's, but that the invention of Kottler et al., overcomes that problem.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

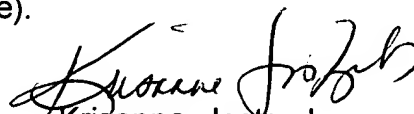
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krisanne Jastrzab whose telephone number is 571-272-

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1279. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Wed. 6:30am-4:00pm and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rick Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Krisanne Jastrzab  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1744

January 10, 2006